

ANARCHIST

1994

YEARBOOK



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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION
2	ANARCHISM (BRIEFLY)
3	ORGANISATIONS
6	PUBLISHERS
11	PERIODICALS
19	NEW BOOKS
26	THE MONUMENT
30	PHOENIX PRESS
31	ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR
32	BLANK PAGE

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INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth edition of the *Anarchist Yearbook*. (If you don't know what anarchism is about then see the statement of anarchism on the following page.) The *Yearbook* is an introduction to the anarchist movement in Britain today. There are lists, supposedly comprehensive but no doubt there are omissions, of periodicals, publishers, organisations, and titles brought out since the last *Yearbook*. (If you spot any omissions or other mistakes write in so they can be put right for next year's edition.) Because the *Yearbook* is trying to give an overview of the movement, rather than promote one of the differing viewpoints within it, the intention is to let people speak for themselves and, as far as possible, not comment on them. This means the *Yearbook* is pretty well unable to comment on current events or debates within the anarchist movement. Too bad. For the particular viewpoint of any grouping, see their publications. In the same way, having rejected a narrow definition of anarchism, the *Yearbook* gives space to groupings perhaps more accurately described as libertarian rather than anarchist. It seems better to include too much than too little.

Most of Britain's anarchist movement is included in the following pages. If you don't like the articles that appear in the anarchist press, write better ones and send them in. If you don't like the titles brought out, then write better ones and ask the publishers to bring them out. If the periodicals don't print your articles and the publishers don't print your books, publish them yourselves. If, rather than act as an individual, you want to combine your efforts with those of others, details of the various anarchist organisations are included in the following pages.

ANARCHISM (BRIEFLY)

Anarchism is revolutionary anti-state socialism. In practical terms, anarchists aim for the destruction of the power of the ruling class and of all relationships based on domination and submission. This means taking over our industries and communities and changing them to meet the needs of all, as well as the ecological needs of the environment. Without this takeover we can struggle within capitalism but never replace it.

Anarchism will be created by millions of people, not a dictatorial elite (we are not Marxist Leninists) and all will have their part to play in shaping it. Power will lie with the organisations thrown up by and for the revolution, not with the political parties who will try to dominate and destroy them.

The new society will not be born through abstract ideas, but will come out of the realities of struggle and the need for working class people to unite. Such struggle doesn't just involve resistance to ruling class power (strikes, mass protests and other forms of direct action), but also construction - the building of the new, locally based federal organisations (examples of which go from grass roots anti-poll tax groups to the miners' support groups of the 1984-85 strike), plus the forging of solidarity and the willingness to go further.

There is no truce in the class war. The only answer to ruling class power is continual and widening struggle - for social revolution and for anarchism.

ORGANISATIONS

There are three national groupings of anarchists and/or libertarians in Britain. They have slightly different views on things, see the list of Aims and Principles or equivalent that each of them has in their paper. The address given is that of the group's national secretary or equivalent.

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST FEDERATION
c/o 84 Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 7QX
Publish the quarterly magazine *ORGANISE!*

CLASS WAR
PO Box JAG
52 Call Lane
Leeds LS1
The paper is *CLASS WAR*.

DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT
PO Box 29
SW PDO
Manchester
M15 5HN
(See the entry *Direct Action* in the periodicals list.)

In addition to the national groups there are various organisations, plus all the periodicals and publishers listed elsewhere in the *Yearbook*. The Anarchist Black Cross, (a prisoners' support group, see the entry *Anarchist Black Cross Bulletin* in the periodicals' list), were written up in detail in last year's *Yearbook*. Their national contact address is:- PO Box 3241, Saltley, Birmingham, B8 3DP. The Kate Sharpley Library is

an archive of anarchist material. See their entry, also in the periodicals' list.

There are several shops in London which should be mentioned because they have reasonable stocks of anarchist books. Freedom Press Bookshop are covered in the list of publishers. 121 Bookshop is at 121 Railton Road, Brixton, London SE24 (Tel 071 274 6655) and is open 1 - 5 Wednesday and Thursday, 2 - 5 Friday, 1 - 5 Saturday and 3 - 5 Sunday. The 56a Infoshop is at 56 Crampton Street, Elephant and Castle, London SE17 and is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 3 - 7. Housmans Bookshop is at 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1 9DX and Compendium is at 234 Camden High Street, London NW1 8QS. Next year's *Yearbook* will have a comprehensive list of shops outside London that have decent anarchist sections.

There are several mail order services for those of you who can't get to the few shops that sell anarchist material. AK Press are listed under publishers, as are Freedom Press and DS4A. Counter-productions are listed under Aporia Press in the publishers section. All of these mail order services do a catalogue. Send them an SAE or a couple of IRCs or your life savings or whatever.

London Greenpeace can be written to at 5 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1 9DX and their phone number is 071 837 7557. They are an anarchist ecological collective, two of whose members are being sued for libel by MacDonalds, the multinational corporation behind the plastic smile of Ronald McDonald. They have a Fayre in Central London every autumn and are no relation to Greenpeace UK. Another annual event held in Central London in the autumn is the Anarchist Book Fair. This is a major event in anarchist circles but the publication date of the *Yearbook* means it can't give the date of the current year's Fair.

See the anarchist press for details, nearer the time.

The Anarchist Distribution Service sends out free material to class struggle groups around the country once a month or so. With a bit of luck this fills in some of the gaps between the three national groups. Send them a hundred copies of the leaflet you want sent out, plus a fiver for the postage. Class struggle stuff only. Their address is PO Box 446, Sheffield, S1 1NY

Moving outside the anarchist ghetto there are the Anti-Nuclear Network, a direct action group whose address is c/o 265 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London N4 2DE. Another direct action group is Anti-Fascist Action whose address is BM Box 1734, London WC1N 3XX. Would any other groups whose aims are progressive and who practice direct action get in touch with the *Yearbook* to see if we'll include them next year.

PUBLISHERS

The entries that follow are written by the publishers themselves. If you have difficulty in getting any titles you're interested in from local shops then try going direct to the publisher in question or write to AK PRESS, details in the section on NEW BOOKS and also below.

ACE EDITIONS

c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street
LONDON E1 7QX

Published by the Anarchist Communist Federation. The pamphlets cover specific areas and continue a long British tradition of presenting popular and in depth arguments in a cheap format. Each pamphlet discusses and extends anarchist-communist ideas which will help bring about the anarchist revolution. Titles: Manifesto of Libertarian Communism, The Myth of Labour's Socialism, Marxism and Its Failures, The Role of the Revolutionary Organisation, Basic Bakunin.

AK PRESS

22 Lutton Place
Edinburgh
EH8 9PE
031 667 1507

AK Press publishes books. And pamphlets. On a wide variety of anarchist, situationist, libertarian and related themes. Everything from poetry to parapolitics. Other active service units of the AK empire include AK Press mail order for individuals. Our current catalogue has around 4,000 books, magazines, political tapes and sexy sportswear. Ask us for a copy of the catalogue.

APORIA PRESS

308 Camberwell New Road
London
SE5 ORW
Tel 071 274 9009

Aporia publishes the series of 17th century "Tracts & Rants", the bedrock of most libertarian and progressive political thought. Works by Winstanley, Coppe, the Diggers and more extreme sectarians are complemented by contemporary anarchic essays by John Moore and others. All titles distributed by Counter-Productions, PO Box 556, London SE5 ORL (send SAE for free descriptive mail-order catalogue of home-grown and imported publications).

ATTACK INTERNATIONAL

No information received.

C.G.H. SERVICES

Ceased operations, all titles out of print. Feel free to reprint any titles you like!

B.M. CLAUDIA

no information received

DERRICK A. PIKE

no information received

EXITSTENCIL PRESS

no information received

DS4A

Box 8, Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB

We started publishing punk fanzines (Read IE) of a class struggle nature, and have started to press pamphlets. Our first was a repressing (*Last of the Hippies*), but we intend publishing new titles this year in conjunction with Class War. We have also started releasing records/CDs (Blaggers ITA).

FREEDOM PRESS

84b Whitechapel High Street
LONDON
E1 7QX

071 247 9249

Publisher of *Freedom*, *The Raven*, and some fifty anarchist books and pamphlets. Bookshop open Monday to Friday 10.30 to 6.00, Saturday 10.30 to 5.00, closed Sundays and Bank Holidays. Send for free book list. During 1993 wrecked by Combat 18 and later subjected to an arson attack, which closed the bookshop for a few weeks, but publication and mail order kept going.

IRATE PRESS

address not yet sorted out

Important works produced cheap, open to suggestions - particularly anti-Stalinist. Not single issues, more into class struggle than anarchism.

Kate Sharpley Library (KSL)

BM Hurricane

London

WC1N 3XX

The Kate Sharpley Library exists as an archival centre covering anarchist publications from the 19th century on. We reprint voices from our movement that are rarely heard as well as providing a source of information, discussion and contention. It holds thousands and thousands of papers, books and journals, magazines and pamphlets, as well as private letters and memories. Our bulletin is 50p, £2.50 for a year's subscription. Use us - and support us with donations of archive material.

LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION

See the Lib ED entry in the magazines list.

BM MAKHNO

No information received.

PHOENIX PRESS

PO Box 824

LONDON

N1 9DL

Bored with unrealistic talk about the revolution happening next week? Phoenix is. What we need is a new (and realistic) anarchist manifesto, plus practical help on what to do now, rather than after the (supposed) revolution. Existing titles include Valerie Solanas' *Scum Manifesto*, the most brilliant thing ever written. See the last page of the *Yearbook* for details of Phoenix's loan system by which you can simultaneously help anarchist publishing and bankrupt yourself.

PIRATE PRESS

PO Box 446

SHEFFIELD

S1 1NY

Produces anarchist pamphlets cheaply. Mixture of class struggle serious stuff and more situationist, but we print whatever takes our fancy. Didn't publish anything in 93 but should be back in full flow in 94.

REBEL PRESS

Box R

84b Whitechapel High Street

LONDON

E1 7QX

081 558 7732

Publishers of a number of key situationist texts (eg *Revolution of Everyday Life*) as well as other titles around the anarchist/feminist/individualist theme.

SOLIDARITY

no information received

SPECTACULAR TIMES

Box 99

84b Whitechapel High Street

LONDON

E1 7QX

Pocketbooks with a situationist-inspired critique of the 20th century. Since the death of Larry Law, author/compiler of the series, these titles have been brought out by A Distribution. It is intended to get all the titles back into print (13 are currently available).

UNPOPULAR BOOKS

Box 15

136 Kingsland High Street

LONDON E8 2NS

Purveyors of proletarian literature since 1983. Peculiarly pertinent portrayals of proletarian pressure to usher in outernational notions that negate normal ideological identifications in a no-nonsense way. In particular, publishers of London Psychogeographical Association material along with such gems as *Black Mask* and Asper Tom's *Open Creation and Its Enemies*.

year minus one press

PO Box 71

Hastings

E Sussex

Publishes occasional pamphlets, leaflets, posters etc including *a day in the life of the car - 24 damning facts* Correspondence welcome.

PERIODICALS

The following descriptions are written by the periodicals themselves. Where no information has been sent, this is recorded. If we think that a magazine no longer exists we don't just put "no information received", we delete the entry.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS BULLETIN

121 Bookshop

121 Railton Road

London SE24 0LR

071 274 6655

is published roughly quarterly, costs 25p and subscriptions are as follows;

£5/£3 individuals, waged/unwaged

£10/£5 organisations, large/small

The ABC Bulletin covers the cases of working class prisoners, whether imprisoned for resistance to capitalism, framed by the police or fighting the prison system. It also covers prison resistance, news, views and writings by prisoners, and attacks prisons from a class perspective. The ABC is an active prisoner solidarity network.

BAD ATTITUDE

121 Railton Road

Brixton

London SE24 0LR

071 978 9057

Bad Attitude. Got it? Be positive about negativity girlz! From some of the people who brought you *Shocking Pink* and *Feminaxe*, here is the only radically national womens newspaper lashing back at the backlash and doing other things. Bimonthly, subscription £5 (£10 boys). The unacceptable face of feminism.

BLACK CHIP

Ceased publication. If anyone wants to revive it, feel free to do so! Also, people can reprint old issues, articles etc.

CLASS WAR

PO Box 772

Bristol

BS99 1EG

0850 393975

The agitational paper of the most widespread anarchist/communist current in Britain, with groups in most towns and cities. On the ball news and views coverage of events in Britain and abroad. This is more than just comment, this is a campaigning paper and movement to change the world.

CONTRAFLOW

c/o 56a Infoshop

56 Crampton Street

London SE17

Contraflow is the free magazine of the London office of the European Counter Network, an evolving network based on the exchange of information via computers. Firmly based in the anti-authoritarian camp, we cover as much as we can from the industrial to the sexual. We distribute to bookshops, centres, groups and individuals (in and out of the anarchist milieu), exchange Contraflow for other publications and offer copies on a one stamp = one issue basis. We are not computer boffins and we don't bite.

COUNTER INFORMATION

Pigeon Hole CI

c/o 11 Forth Street

Edinburgh EH1

CI newsheet reports social struggles world-wide, workers', community, women's, prisoners' struggles, resistance to racism, environmental destruction. . . and more! We encourage self-org-

anisation, collective direct action, and the generalisation of resistance, leading to the revolutionary over-throw of all oppression and exploitation. SAE brings sample. Bundles available for free distribution (12,000 printed!) Donations, news, exchanges welcome.

DIRECT ACTION

PO Box 574

Brockley

London

SE4 1DL

Hasn't appeared for some time as the energies of the Direct Action Movement are going into their three industrial networks, education, public sector and transport. However, Direct Action should reappear in 94.

ECHANGES ET MOUVEMENT

BM Box 91

London

WC1N 3XX

A network of comrades and groups exchanging informations and discussions on class struggle, trying to escape the traditional sectarian opposition of ready-made theories, learning from class actions against capital. Quarterly bulletin in English and French, and pamphlets. Presentation text and publications from above address or from BP 241, 75866 Paris, Cedex 18.

EDUCATION WORKER

no information received

FLUX

Box A, Rainbow Centre

180 Mansfield Road

Nottingham

Aiming to question old dogma and ideas in a constructive and non-sectarian way. Covers a range of issues relevant to libertarian socialism today. Past editions have included debates on anti-fasc-

ism, pornography, New Social Movements, the judicial system, veganism, and lots more. Quarterly, nearly. Always looking for people to get involved.

FREEDOM

(in Angel Alley)
84b Whitechapel High Street
London E1 7QX
Tel 071 247 9249

Fortnightly, 8 pages A3, 50p. For subscription rates, send for a free specimen copy. Comments on world news from an anarchist viewpoint. Anarchist movement news. Expositions and discussions of anarchist ideas. Reviews.

GREEN ANARCHIST

Box ZZ
111 Magdalen Road
Oxford
OX4 1RJ

UK's quarterly primitivist paper, 20 A3 pages, 75p. Forum for international network of Earth First! animal liberationist, anti-fascist and other autonomous groups. Chaallenging range of publications via GA mail order c/o 151b London Road, Camberley GU15 3JY including *Green Anarchism: Its Origins and Influences*, *City Death*, *A Lie Too Far*

THE HEAVY STUFF

PO Box 467
London
E8 3QX
0850 393975

New look and emphasis have been given to the thoughts of Class War activists. Every edition will put our ideas to the front of struggles and help create a real revolutionary movement that is not afraid to muck in, rather than snipe from the rear. Our day will come.

HERE AND NOW

No information received.

INSIDE INFORMATION

No information received.

Lib ED
170 Wells Road
Bristol
BS4 2AG

Since the mid-sixties, Libertarian Education has been actively promoting freedom in education by publishing books, pamphlets and magazines and organising meetings, conferences and other events. For full information and a free copy of Lib ED magazine, send a large (A4) stamped, addressed envelope.

NEW ANARCHIST REVIEW

c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 7QX

Review of anarchist titles currently in print and available in the UK. 2 to 4 issues a year. Delivered free. Available to individuals for a small subscription. Its publishers run the annual Anarchist Bookfair in London in October.

ORGANISE!

Anarchist Communist Federation
c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 7QX

50p. Every three months. *ORGANISE!* is the national magazine of the Anarchist Communist Federation. It is a quarterly theoretical and discussion magazine which is published in order to develop anarchist-communist ideas. As well as discussing contemporary issues, it initiates debate on areas not normally covered by agitational journals.

OUR DAY WILL COME

PO Box 467

London E8 3QX

Republican, class struggle, anarchist football fanzine with neat ideas, music/magazine reviews, letters, smashing fascists, free adverts column, and issue 11 carried a page on the Class War Federation. It's listed in *When Saturday Comes*, reaching the parts others dream of. . . .

PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS' NETWORK

PO Box 73, Norwich NR1 2EB

PO Box 29, Manchester M15 5HW

PO Box 1681, London N8 7LE

Free publication of militant public service workers promoting workers' self-management and revolutionary change in society. Aim to network widely with like-minded workers, regardless of union affiliation, in public services, whether state, voluntary or private sector. Won't waste time trying to reform existing unions. Donations, subscriptions, bulk orders welcomed.

THE RAVEN

84b Whitechapel High Street

London

E1 7QX

Tel 071 247 9249

Quarterly, 96 pages (sometimes more), A5, £3.00, post free. Each issue consists of articles related to a particular topic of anarchist interest. 1993 issues (22 to 24) are on feminism, crime, Spain, science. All back numbers available.

SPANNER

no information received

SUBVERSION

Dept 10

1 Newton Street

Manchester

M1 1HW

Subversion is a small revolutionary group based in the north of England but with an internationalist perspective! We publish a regular free bulletin with analysis of the class struggle and political comment, plus occasional pamphlets - the last two on Ireland and the Labour Party. Membership open to all agreeing with our basic principles and committed to collective work.

TRANSPORT WORKER NETWORK

PO Box 73

Norwich NR1 2EB

Launched two years ago by bus, rail and road haulage workers. Produce regular bulletins, plus leaflets etc, on all that affects workers in our industry. Propose anarcho-syndicalist organisation as alternative to present ineffective trade unions. Also work to make RMT, TGWU, etc, stand by workers and fight attacks by employers. TWN members retain trade union membership whilst TWN presently consists of numerous individuals, and groups in some cities. TWN is for active solidarity, workplace control and real participative democracy.

TROTWATCH

c/o Box NDF

72 Radford Road

Hyson Green

Nottingham NG7 5FT

Very occasional anti-lefty journal, analysing the antics, ideology and anti-proletarian practice of the supposedly 'revolutionary' British left: from the rump of the Bennite labourist left to the hardcore leninist partyist fundamentalists. *Carry on recruiting!*, a pamphlet length study of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), will be jointly published with AK Press in the autumn. *Trotwatch* issue two should appear in the winter of 93/94.

WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Workers Solidarity Movement

PO Box 1528

Dublin 8

Ireland

75p, sample copy free. Quarterly A4 20 page magazine packed with anarchist news, views, analysis and reviews from Ireland. The WSM also publish pamphlets including *Parliament or Democracy* (50p), *The Spanish Civil War: Anarchism in Action* (£1.50), and *Ireland and British Imperialism*, which deals with the partition of Ireland, sectarianism, the civil rights movement, loyalism and republicanism (£1.50).

NEW TITLES

It's difficult getting hold of libertarian literature in Britain. If there isn't a bookshop near you that sells the sort of stuff listed below then it's available by mail order from AK Press, 22 Lutton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PE. Add 10% for p&p, minimum 50p. With every order they'll send you their catalogue with about 4,000 titles in it. They also sell all the magazines and books listed in the Yearbook.

What follows is a fairly comprehensive list of the libertarian titles that were published, reprinted, or otherwise brought out in Britain in 1993. If you know of any titles that should have been included and haven't been then write and let us know. That way we can try and not miss anyone out next year.

A GIRL AMONG THE ANARCHISTS

Isabel Meredith

University of Nebraska Press

O 8032 8190 0

£8.50

Originally printed in 1903, a fictionalised account of how two upper middle class girls, Helen and Olivia Rossetti, got involved with, and then left, the London anarchist movement of the late 1890s. Sometimes sympathetic, sometimes patronising, fascinating for what it reveals about the authors' class prejudices.

A LIE TOO FAR

Larry O'Hara

Mina Enterprises

£1.80

An examination of the strange world inhabited by Gerry Gable and his (supposedly) anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*, which has made a habit over the years of slandering libertarians. Is *Searchlight* really run by MI5? Impossible to prove

but I wouldn't trust *Searchlight* any further than I could throw Century House.

ANARCHIST ECONOMICS

Industrial Syndicalist Education League

Abraham Guillen

1 873605 01 3

£1.00

A brief account of the industrial and agricultural collectives formed in Spain after the people in arms had, over much of Spain, stopped the military rebellion of Franco. The libertarian ideas of the CNT in practice.

BAD

The autobiography of James Carr

AK Press

1 873176 21 X

£5.95

Hardly-known autobiography of the black US criminal who was a prison mate and comrade of the Soledad brother George Jackson (murdered by the prison authorities in San Quentin in 1971)). Carr himself was shot and killed outside prison in 1972.

BLACK MASK & UP AGAINST THE WALL MOTHERFUCKER

various authors

Unpopular Books/Sabotage Editions

1 873176 70 8

£5.00

"The incomplete works of Ron Hahne, Ben Morea and the Black Mask Group." Articles that appeared in the US in the late 1960s on Black Power, the anti-Vietnam war struggle, revolutionary politics and art.

CITY-DEATH

Stephen Booth

Green Anarchist

0 9521226 0 X

£4.95

"Uncompromising in its rejection of technology, civilisation, *City-Death* glories in their collapse, and points towards the future, a world of self-sufficient village communities.

DEEP ECOLOGY AND ANARCHISM

various authors

Freedom Press

0 900384 67 0

£2.50

Six different authors, all but one putting forward viewpoints on anarchism, ecology, and deep ecology. Murray Bookchin advocates social ecology, Graham Purchase thinks Bookchin has abandoned class analysis, and more.

THE EGO AND ITS OWN

Max Stirner

Rebel Press

0 946061 00 9

£8.50

"The case of the individual against authority." The bible (so to speak) of anarchist-individualism, first published in Germany in 1845.

ENRAGÉS AND SITUATIONISTS IN THE OCCUPATION MOVEMENT, FRANCE, MAY 68

René Viénet

Rebel Press

0 946061 05 X

£5.95

An insider's account of the events referred to in the title. First English edition in book format, includes all the documents from the original French edition, now translated for the first time.

FREEDOM TO ROAM

Harold Sculthorpe

Freedom Press

0 900384 68 9

£3.50

Collection of short articles on the subject of

rambling and the attempts of the authorities, including the military, big landowners, factory farmers, the newly privatised water companies, and the National Trust, to restrict our freedom, in this instance to roam the countryside.

LETTERS FROM LEXINGTON

Noam Chomsky
AK Press
1 873176 06 6
£7.95

Articles by the famous linguistic philosopher and libertarian thinker that appeared in *Lies of Our Times*, the US journal of media critique, between 1990 and 1993. Exposing the role of the media in backing up the US imperialist system.

NO PITY

Stewart Home
AK Press
1 873176 46 5
£5.95

Short stories, written in a parody of the writing style of Richard Allen, the best-selling pulp fiction writer of the early 70s, and pretty well incomprehensible to those who don't realise this. If you take it at face value you've missed the point, whatever that might be.

PIT SENSE versus THE STATE

Dave Douglass
Phoenix Press
0 948984 26 0
£4.50

Important document from the miners' strike of 84/85, showing how the picketing was organised. A working class, insider's account, not the usual middle class outsider's one. Attacks the left for their ignorance and irrelevance.

POOR LENIN
Bob Darke
Irate Press
£1

Extracts from *The Communist Technique in Britain*, the 1952 book by a working class, East End Communist of how and why he left the Party. A scathing attack on the way the CP treated (that is, manipulated) both those inside and outside its ranks. The authoritarian left exposed.

THE RED PRUSSIAN

Leopold Schwarzschild
£7.95

Ignore the author's liberal illusions concerning the so-called free market and parliamentary democracy, and also his sometimes quaint writing style, this 1947 biography of Karl Marx demolishes both the man and his ideas.

SCUM MANIFESTO

Valerie Solanas
Phoenix Press
0 948984 03 1
£1.50

"Life in this society being, at best, an utter bore and no aspect of society being at all relevant to women, there remains to civic-minded, responsible, thrill-seeking females only to overthrow the government, eliminate the money system, institute complete automation and destroy the male sex."

SOCIAL DEFENCE, SOCIAL CHANGE

Brian Martin
Freedom Press
0 900384 69 7
£4.95

". . . abolishing military forces and relying in their stead on nonviolent struggles by the general population. . . the connection between nonviolent action and social change."

SOCIETY OF THE SPECTACLE AND OTHER FILMS

Guy Debord

Rebel Press

0 946061 06 8

£5.50

The texts of Debord's first five films (the sixth and last is available separately), with a brief introduction saying when the films came out and whether they were Lettrist, early Situationist, or post-Situationist.

VIOLENCE AND ANARCHISM

various authors

Freedom Press

0 900384 70 0

£2.50

Pacifism versus anarchism, mostly as appeared in the pages of *Freedom* in 1960 following the Sharpeville massacre and the subsequent attempt to kill the South African Premier by a white land-owner, David Pratt. The original article was headed, Too Bad He Missed. Plus a short history of political violence in Britain.

WAR AGAINST WAR!

Ernst Friedrich

£7.95

The 1924 classic of anti-militarism, seen by an anti-nationalist who happened to be on the German side of the battle line. Dreadful photos from the First World War of those killed in battle, those maimed and mutilated, those executed, by hanging, behind German lines, and more. Text in English, German, French and Dutch.

YEAR 501, THE CONQUEST CONTINUES

Noam Chomsky

Verso

0 86091 680 4

£11.95

Five hundred years after Columbus began Europe's genocidal invasion of the Americas, Chomsky points

out that there is no "New World Order", only a continuation of the old one. A history of European and US imperialism, racism, the lies of the West's intelligentsia, an account of today's oppressive global system.

THE MONUMENT

The Socialist Party of Great Britain (as was) is of some interest to anarchists. Part of their aims and principles we agree with, part we regard as nonsense. These days they've split into two groups but until a few years ago there was only one SPGB. Back in 1975 long-time SPGB member Robert Barltrop wrote a history of the group called *The Monument*. It's out of print and very difficult to find so you will rejoice to see some extracts here. They deal with the period in the sixties when the author was out of the SPGB and looking around at other political groupings. His views on leftists, the Labour Party, direct action, and the sort of tossers who passed for anarchists back in the sixties are interesting even when you disagree with them.

"I found myself sitting listening to men whose thinking was dominated by the concept of the collarless, downtrodden-but-defiant proletarian. I was told that subjects like Trotsky's permanent revolution theory, Stalinism, and the rate of surplus-value were what 'the chap at the factory bench' talked about. People who say this kind of thing have never been in factories in their lives, of course; on one or two occasions I said so.

. . . I simply did not agree with the Labour Party. In government it acted like the Conservatives, and out of government paraded aims which were only too clearly either futile or specious. There was a school of thought in the left which acknowledged this but saw permanent hope in the Labour rank-and-file who, however misled, sustained a conviction for socialism.

I did not believe that either. Among people of my own generation and older, there might have been something to be said for it. I had Labour friends who were not unlike the members of the SPGB except that they stopped short of logical

conclusions. Indeed, the early Labour leaders - Hardie, the Webbs and the rest - knew and talked about socialism, but were compromised in policies designed to win mass support on varied grounds. There was, and is, nothing of this to be seen now. When I am among Labour people I find chiefly smart-alec, well-heeled men concerned only with management and viability, among whom any talk of a new society is dismissed as utopian.

Thus, I spent nearly three years in the heterogenous 'libertarian' movement of the mid-nineteen-sixties. The rise to popularity of direct action was not unconnected with what I have been saying about the Labour Party. There was a common sentiment that parliament could no longer be considered as a means to radical change. Political rebels were eaten whole by party machinery: the workers must be told to seize whatever else came to hand. For the same reasons the general determination was to steer clear of structured - 'bureaucratic' - organization. Many of the groups I attended had no formal membership, and their activities were spur-of-the-moment arrangements by twos and threes.

This 'do-it-yourself' association appeared flexible in contrast with the procedures of the SPGB, where members could be frustrated because their suggestions were not adopted or because delays in action seemed almost to outlive the need for it. In fact, it usually meant there being a caucus of close associates who arranged and executed things with very little participation by the rest. In two good-sized activist groups I attended the principals continually complained of all they had to do, but offers of help caused only embarrassment: the difficulties of admitting somebody else were actually greater than those of being short-handed. Most of the splits and quarrels were over caucus-making and resentment at not knowing what was being arranged.

Paradoxically, the informality made integration in libertarian groups hard to achieve. The turnover of people who came and drifted away was very high. The basic feeling was an unsociable one - too busy with important projects to notice individuals; indeed, I often heard conversations interrupted with 'This isn't a social club'. The only group I came across that showed cordiality was the Syndicalist Workers' Federation (it held cheery socials above a pub at King's Cross), and it was also the only one which resembled the SPGB in having a declared programme and structure. The non-social groups harangued a great deal about alienation, how people were estranged from themselves and one another by the system, and did not seem to think there was anything odd.

This was the heyday of the anti-Vietnam war demonstrations. Besides them I witnessed, knew the participants in and heard the talk about the direct-action exploits of the time: the occupation of the Greek Embassy in 1967, and the squatter movement. They roused excitement, of course; they were skilfully but arbitrarily planned, with no anticipation of - and wholesale confusion over - the outcomes. In whatever venture, the fundamental justification was unrest for its own sake: 'People are changed by struggle.' It is not true in most cases. People brought into situations framed by somebody else are going to be simply followers, comprehending and even knowing little of what the issues are. When it is true, is the direction of the change predictable?

But I heard nothing from the demonstrators and action groups of the supremely important thing: the vision of a society where all things for men should be, in Morris's words, 'better than well'. The phrase 'alternative society' was to be found in the hippy papers, *International Times* and *Oz* and the rest, and for them it meant creating one's own cocoon within capitalism. In 1967 I spoke

about it in a talk to an anarchist group, and the responses were blank; finally a man said he was not interested in society and embraced anarchism as a damn-them-all philosophy. The view of the industrial militants was not so very different. Talking to a man well-known in the factory-ferment circles, I referred to the mass of ordinary people in everyday jobs. He said: 'I'm not interested in ordinary people, or everyday jobs. I'm only interested in industrial workers.'

Feelings of affinity or even sympathy for most of what I saw and heard were hard to find. I spoke occasionally at meetings and wrote a few articles, but both were hard going; I was lacking conviction. I wrote to several of the people I had met in the libertarian movement, putting my view-point to them. The answers (I still have them) were not without interest. The anarchists replied mostly that if I were thinking of co-operation, consistency and social or personal responsibility, I obviously had no idea what anarchism was about. The others, the more purposeful politicians, said they found my criticisms absolutely correct: the trouble was, they were too steeped in activity to stop and put anything right."

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